

Message Text

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S/S - MR. GAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AF

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT DAOUD TO PRESIDENT NIXON

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT
NIXON FROM PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD DATED OCTOBER 18,
DELIVERED TO DEPARTMENT OCTOBER 24 BY AFGHAN AMBASSADOR
MALIKYAR.

QUOTE WITH THE OUTBREAK OF THE CURRENT HOSTILITIES IN
THE MIDDLE EAST, AND ITS CONTINUATION IN THE FORM THAT IT
HAS TAKEN WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS, THE SPECTRE OF A MAJOR
CONFRONTATION SEEMS TO LOOM IN ITS UGLIEST FORM ON THE
INTERNATIONAL HORIZON. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD
BE IMPOSSIBLE, INDEED, FOR ANY GOVERNMENT OR ANY NATION
TO REMAIN A PASSIVE SPECTATOR, OR TO ASSUME A POSITION
OF INDIFFERENCE. WITH THAT IN MIND, WE FEEL THAT THE FLOW
OF ADDITIONAL AND MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS TO THE AREA
WILL NOT ONLY LEAD TO A NEEDLESS PROLONGATION OF THE
PRESENT CONFLICT, BUT MIGHT ALSO THREATEN THE FOUNDATION
OF WORLD PEACE AT LARGE.

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TO ALL PEACELOVING NATIONS OF THE WORLD IT SEEMS PARTICU-

LARLY UNPLEASANT TO WITNESS A RENEWAL OF TENSIONS IN AN ERA DURING WHICH THE MAJOR POWERS OF THE WORLD HAD TAKEN SOME VERY POSITIVE AND SIGNIFICANT STEPS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH PROMISED PEACE AND

TRANQUILITY ON THE ONE HAND, AND OBVIATED THE FEAR OF OBLIVION ON THE OTHER.

I ENTERTAIN THE COMPLETE CERTITUDE THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY IS FULLY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT WARS AND BLOODSHED CANNOT POSSIBLY LEAD US TOWARDS A REAL AND FINAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE MIDDLE EAST. IT WAS WITH A FULL APPRECIATION OF THAT FACT THAT AT THE END OF THE 1967 CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED ITS NOW FAMOUS RESOLUTION 242 OF NOVEMBER 22, 1967. THE SAID RESOLUTION DOES CONTAIN THE NECESSARY ELEMENTS WHICH COULD HAVE ESTABLISHED PEACE IN ITS TRUE SENSE BY KEEPING THE NOTIONS OF JUSTICE AND FULL RESPECT OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED AS ITS GUIDELINE. IT WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT THE STATE OF ISRAEL CHOSE TO IGNORE THAT RESOLUTION AND PERSISTED IN MAINTAINING ITS OCCUPATION OF THE TERRITORIES CAPTURED FROM THE ARAB STATES. THE PRESENT TURMOIL AND ALL THE DANGERS INHERENT IN IT ARE THE DIRECT RESULTS OF THAT OBSTINACY. WHAT ELSE COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED BUT THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS FROM SUCH A POLICY? AND NOW EVERY NATION OF THE WORLD WITNESSES WITH SORROW THE UNFOLDING OF EVENTS WHICH CAN AND MAY ENTAIL EXTREMELY GRAVE CONSEQUENCES.

THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN AND MYSELF ARE FULLY CONVINCED THAT IN THIS SITUATION ONLY THE MAJOR POWERS ARE IN A POSITION TO PUT AN END TO THIS CONFLICT, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE FULL RESPECT OF THE STIPULATIONS CONTAINED IN THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTION WILL LEAD US TO A JUST AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THIS LONG-STANDING CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ARAB STATES AND ISRAEL.

I MUST STATE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED OBSERVATIONS IN MIND, THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BELIEVE THAT THE ACCELERATED FLOW OF WEAPONS TO THE AREA WILL NOT ONLY LEAD TO FURTHER AGGRAVATION OF THE PRESENT UNFORTUNATE SITUATION, BUT WILL ALSO BRING TO SURFACE THE BASIC THREATS TO WORLD PEACE WITH WHICH WE HAVE LIVED FOR SO MANY YEARS. THE RECENT TRENDS, BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF THE PRESENT CONFLICT, HAD GIVEN US EVERY REASON TO REJOICE AND TO LOOK FORWARD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD. NOW WE FACE ONCE AGAIN THE FEARS

AND FOREBODINGS OF WHAT WE HAD HOPED TO BE A BYGONE ERA.

WITH THESE FOREBODINGS IN MIND, AND WITH A SINCERE DESIRE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF WORLD PEACE, I FELT COMPELLED TO SEND YOU THIS MESSAGE BY A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, MR.

ABDULLAH, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN. I ENTERTAIN THE HOPE THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY, AS THE LEADER OF ONE OF THE GREAT POWERS IN THE WORLD, WILL CONSIDER TAKING AN EFFECTIVE STAND TOWARDS ESTABLISHING PEACE, WITH JUSTICE, IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND TO PUT AN END TO A CONFLICT WHICH HAS EMPOISONED THE ENTIRE ATMOSPHERE OF THE AREA FOR SO MANY YEARS.

IN CONCLUSION, MR. PRESIDENT, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND TO YOU, ONCE AGAIN, MY GOOD WISHES FOR YOUR HAPPINESS AND PERSONAL WELL-BEING, AND TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE DESIRE FOR THE FURTHER GREATNESS AND PROSPERITY OF THE GREAT NATIONS WHICH YOU LEAD, WITHIN AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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